

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of assigning code masks for wireless communication in a system that supports transmission in multiple frequency ranges, comprising:

generating a code mask for coding transmissions over a traffic channel based on at least one frequency differentiator indicative of a first frequency range that is one of the multiple supported frequency ranges, at least one band class differentiator indicative of a band class, and at least one traffic channel differentiator indicative of a traffic channel; and

transmitting a message indicative of the generated code mask from a base station assigning the traffic channel to a mobile unit.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the traffic channel differentiator comprises a Walsh code assigned to the traffic channel.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the frequency differentiator comprises a channel number indicative of the first frequency range that is one of the multiple supported frequency ranges.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the band class differentiator comprises a band class number.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the code mask comprises combining the frequency differentiator, the band class differentiator, and the traffic channel differentiator.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein combining the frequency differentiator, the band class differentiator, and the traffic channel differentiator comprises concatenating the frequency differentiator, the band class differentiator, and the traffic channel differentiator in a desired order.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein concatenating the frequency differentiator, the band class differentiator, and the traffic channel differentiator comprises arranging one or more strings of bits in a discontinuous manner.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein combining the frequency differentiator, the band class differentiator, and the traffic channel differentiator comprises at least one of multiplexing, encoding, permutating, and functionally manipulating at least a portion of at least one of the frequency differentiator, the band class differentiator, and the traffic channel differentiator.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising delaying re-assignment of the traffic channel indicator until ~~substantially~~ after a predetermined time.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein delaying re-assignment of the traffic channel indicator until substantially after the predetermined time comprises delaying re-assignment of the traffic channel indicator until ~~substantially~~ after a guard timer expires.

13. (Previously Presented) A method of assigning code masks for wireless communication in a system that supports inter-frequency handoffs between multiple frequency ranges, comprising:

receiving an indication that an inter-frequency handoff from a first frequency range to a second frequency range is to be initiated for a mobile unit that is assigned a first code mask formed based on at least one frequency differentiator indicative of the first frequency range;

generating, in response to receiving the indication, a second code mask for coding transmissions over a traffic channel based on at least one frequency differentiator indicative of the second frequency range, at least one band class differentiator indicative of a band class, and at least one traffic channel differentiator indicative of a traffic channel;

performing the inter-frequency handoff from the first frequency to the second frequency;
and

transmitting the second code mask to the mobile unit.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein transmitting the second code mask comprises transmitting the second code mask ~~substantially~~ after performing the inter-frequency handoff from the first frequency range to the second frequency range.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein transmitting the second code mask comprises transmitting the second code mask during the inter-frequency handoff from the first frequency range to the second frequency range.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein receiving the indication comprises receiving an indication transmitted from a mobile unit to a base station.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the traffic channel differentiator comprises a Walsh code assigned to the traffic channel, the frequency differentiator comprises a channel number indicative of the second frequency range, and the band class differentiator comprises a band class number.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein generating the second code mask comprises combining the frequency differentiator, the band class differentiator, and the traffic channel differentiator.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising assigning the traffic channel indicator to a new wireless communication link ~~substantially~~ after a predetermined time.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of wireless communication using code masks in a system that supports transmission in multiple frequency ranges, comprising:

receiving a code mask for coding transmissions over a traffic channel based on at least one frequency differentiator indicative of a first frequency range selected from the multiple

supported frequency ranges, at least one band class differentiator indicative of a band class, and at least one traffic channel differentiator indicative of a traffic channel; and

transmitting over the traffic channel using the received code mask.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein receiving the code mask comprises receiving the code mask ~~substantially~~ during or after an inter-frequency handoff.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein receiving the code mask comprises receiving a code mask that is different than a previous code mask used ~~substantially~~ before or during the inter-frequency handoff.